

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 L-03 H-03 RSR-01 /103 W

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R 191654Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8834

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3929

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR LI GV

SUBJECT: NEWSOM VISIT TO GUINEA; GOL/GOG DISCUSSIONS

1. I PASSED ON TO MINFINANCE TOLBERT CONTENTS OF REFTEL ON JULY 19. HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM'S THOUGHTFULNESS AND REITERATED THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH TO SEKOU TOURE USG DIFFICULTIES REGARDING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND PARTICULARLY PL-480 PROGRAM. HE SAID HE ALSO DETECTED DESIRE ON PART OF TOURE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH US. HE BELIEVES TOURE IS SINCERE IN THIS BUT IS A VICTIM OF PEOPLE AROUND HIM WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOURE'S SUSPICIOUS NATURE TO BLOCK OR UNDO MANY EFFORTS OF POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO GUINEA. HE PROMISED IN THE SAME SPIRIT AS NEWSOM'S GESTURE TO PASS ON RESULTS ANY FUTURE CONVERSATIONS HE MIGHT HAVE WITH SEKOU TOURE.

2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE CONCERNING HIS RECENT MEETINGS IN MONROVIA WITH GUINEAN DELEGATION. I OBSERVED THAT PRESS TREATMENT SEEMED TO FOCUS ON TRANSPORT AND RELATED PROBLEMS. WHILE IN FACT MIFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT OBVIOUSLY HELD CENTRAL IMPORTANCE IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS. TOLBERT CONFIRMED THIS, OBSERVING THAT TRANSPORT QUESTIONS, BOTH AIR AND ROAD, WERE A LONG WAY AHEAD. THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION REGARDING JOINT AIRLINE OPEATIONS WAS WHERE GUINEA WOULD FIND FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO UPHOLD ITS PART IN ITS INTERNAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND

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COOPERATION IN

THIS AREA MIGHT MOVE MORE RAPIDLY. TURNING TO
MIFERGUI-NIMBA HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE GREAT SUCESS IN THAT
GUINEA AND CONSORTIUM WISHED TO EVACUATE ALL GUINEA-NIMBA ORE
OVER LAMCO RAILROAD IN LIBERIA. ONLY GUARANTEE ON LIBERIA'S
PART WAS ITS AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSORTIUM, AND
GOL HAD AGREED TO A FIVE PERCENT PARTICIPATION. NOT ONLY DOES
LAMCO HAVE NO REPEAT NO PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSORTIUM, BUT
ALSO CONSORTIUM HAD AGREED TO FINANCE ALL COSTS OF EXPANDING AND
EXTENDING RAILROAD IN LIBERIA AND THE PORT FACILITIES AT BUCHANAN.
IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN
MADE BY GOL OR LAMCO TO PURCHASE MIFERGUI-NIMBA ORE TO UPGRADE
LIBERIAN-NIMBA ORE IN FUTURE, MINFINACE TOLBERT REPLIED THAT
GOL HAD IN FACT INSISTED ON OPTIONS TO PURCHASE GUINEA-NIMBA
ORE IN THE FUTURE WITH QUANTITIES TO BE DETERMINED AT LATER
DATE.
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